Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 04009 092003Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 /099 W
----------092014Z 091142 /43
P R 091843Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1444
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04009

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, UK, XF, IS
SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: UPDATE ON UK SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 50238; (B) LONDON 2620; (C) 76 LONDON 7233

SUMMARY. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NO STEPS, THROUGH LEGISLATION OR OTHER ACTIONS. TO COUNTER ARAB BOYCOTT PRACTICES AND TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO MOVES IN THIS DIRECTION ARE PLANNED. THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE BY THE PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY, USING THE METAL BOX CASE AND THE HARDER U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION, TO TAKE A STRONGER LINE AGAINST THE BOYCOTT. HOWEVER, PRESSURES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 04009 092003Z

WOULD HAVE TO GET CONSIDERABLY GREATER THAN APPEARS LIKELY BEFORE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WOULD ABANDON ITS FIRMLY HELD POLICY OF MORALLY DEPLORING TRADE BOYCOTTS WHILE MAINTAINING A LAISSEZ FAIRE ATTITUDE ON ACTUAL UK BUSINESS PRACTICES TOWARD ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ARAB BOYCOTT HAS RECENTLY BEEN THE SUBJECT OF

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN THE UK BECAUSE OF THE METAL BOX CASE REPORTED REF B. THIS HAS LED TO A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS BEING PUT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT AS WELL AS ANTIBOYCOTT SUPPORTERS MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. THE PRESSURE GROUP SEEKING A GREATER UK GOVERNMENT ROLE ON THE BOYCOTT ISSUE CONSISTS ESSENTIALLY OF THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS: (A) SOME PARTS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, WORKING THROUGH B'NIA B'RITH'S ANTI-BOYCOTT COMMITTEE; (B) A SMALL NUMBER OF MPS, MAINLY MESSRS. MOONMAN AND JANNER, WHO KEEP THE POT BUBBLING IN THE COMMONS; (C) THE PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM OF NELSON AND PRITTIE; AND, (D) A MIXED GROUP OF OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SUPPORTIVE BECAUSE OF THEIR VIEWS ON FREE TRADE, MORAL ATTITUDES, ETC. THIS TOTAL GROUP IS APPARENTLY NOT VERY NUMEROUS OR BROAD BASED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT HOW MUCH EFFECTIVE INTEREST THIS GROUP COULD GENERATE FOR ITS CAUSE, BUT THE DEGREE OF INFLUENCE IT EXERCISES DIRECTLY DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE GREAT. IN GENERAL TERMS, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE UK DOES NOT PLAY A STRONG POLITICAL ROLE.

3. IN THE FACE OF RECENT PRO-ISRAELI ACTIVITY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS STUCK TO ITS POSITION, LITERALLY WORD FOR WORD. "THE GOVERNMENT OPPOSES AND DEPLORES ALL TRADE BOYCOTTS THAT LACK INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND AUTHORITY. IT IS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL FIRM TO DECIDE IN THE LIGHT OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 04009 092003Z

ITS OWN COMMERCIAL INTERESTS WHAT ITS ATTITUDE IS TO BE TOWARD THE BOYCOTT." (FYI: THE UN BOYCOTT AGAINST RHODESIA IS THE ONLY BOYCOTT OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT.)

4. U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIONS ON THE BOYCOTT CONTINUE TO BE WATCHED CAREFULLY BY THE UK GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THE PRO-ISRAELI LOBBY USES THE TOUGHER U.S. STANCE AS A MAJOR LEVER IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE UK POLICY. WE HAVE KEPT THE FCO AND DEPARTMENT OF TRADE INFORMED ABOUT U.S. GOV-ERNMENT ACTIONS IN THIS AREA BY PROVIDING TEXTS OF OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, BUT WE HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND THE POINT OF MERELY PROVIDING ACCURATE STATEMENTS OF POLICY.

MILLER

CONFIDENTIAL

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PROGRESS REPORTS, GOVERNEMENT REACTIONS, BOYCOTTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON04009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-0660
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770378/aaaacquk.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2d5f5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 50238, 77 LONDON 2620, 76 LONDON 197
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3163403
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB BOYCOTT: UPDATE ON UK SITUATION
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, UK, XF, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2d5f5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009